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To: District and County Superintendents  
Attention: Directors of Testing  
Directors of Curriculum  
Directors of Special Education  
Bilingual Coordinators

From: Phil Spears, Director  
Standards and Assessment Division  
California Department of Education

Subject: **Update on Standards and Assessment--June 2000**

District testing for STAR 2000 has been completed, and planning for STAR 2001 is already underway. The first field test of the High School Exit Exam was administered during May in preparation for the first "live" administration in the Spring of 2001. Additional information about STAR and HSEE is provided below.

### **Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR) 2000**

A June 21 memo provides information about the release of STAR 2000 results and about the California Reading Lists. The memo is posted at the CDE Internet web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/misc/062100.pdf>

### **STAR 2000 Apportionment Information Report**

The *STAR 2000 Apportionment Information Report and Certification of Testing* was sent to districts in early May. Districts are required to complete and return the reports within five days of the completion of testing in the district.

Copies of the *Apportionment Information Reports* are also available on the Internet <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/star/starapp.html>. Some data may be submitted electronically following directions at the Internet site.

Districts with questions about completing the apportionment reports should contact Debbie McClurg at (916) 657-5133.

### **Performance Levels for STAR 2000**

Performance standards for STAR (California Standards) language arts will be set in August 2000. Beginning with the STAR 2001 administration, student reports of results will indicate the level at which the student has performed in language arts, based on the number correct on the California Standards Test (there are 40 Stanford 9 items at grades 2 and 3, and 55 Stanford 9 items at grades 4 through 11, with 35 California "custom" standards items at grades 2 through 11). The performance levels, previously named by the State Board of Education (SBE), are advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic.

### **Spring 2001 Testing Window**

The SBE discussed the consequences of establishing a narrower testing window to achieve greater uniformity in administration of the California Standards Test, but deferred action until the July meeting. The narrower window under discussion would require all schools to test on or near a specified percentage of the instructional calendar.

### **"Optional" STAR 2001 Tests at Grades 2 through 8**

The SBE approved the deletion of the optional Stanford 9 tests (Listening, Study Skills, Social Science, Science) from student test booklets at grades 2 through 8. Districts that wish to use any or all of the optional sub-tests should contact HEM regarding purchase through a separate agreement.

### **STAR 2001 Direct Writing Test at Grades 4 and 7**

An assessment that requires each student to write to a specified topic will be administered in grades 4 and 7 in spring 2001 as part of California Standards Test (STAR augmentation). The writing assessment score will be combined with other STAR results to produce a single score for English/language arts for each student, and for aggregation of results at the school level and above.

### **STAR 2001 Mathematics Tests at Grades 8 through 11**

In spring 2001 students will take the STAR mathematics (California Standards) tests as follows. All students will take the Stanford 9 mathematics sub-tests appropriate to grade level enrollment. Students in grades 8, 9, 10, or 11 enrolled in algebra 1, geometry, algebra 2, or integrated mathematics 1, 2, or 3 will take the test corresponding to course enrollment. The requirements for students in **grade 11** have changed: only students in grade 11 who have completed mathematics through algebra 2 or integrated mathematics 3 prior to grade 11 will take the Grade 11 test.

### **STAR 2001 History/Social Science Tests at Grades 9 through 11**

California Standards Tests in history/social science will be administered for the first time in spring 2001 in grades 9 through 11. All students in grade 9 will take the Stanford 9 social science test and the grade 9 California Standards Test, which will be based on state history/social science standards from grades 4 through 8. All students in grade 10 will take the Stanford 9 social science test for grade 10 and the grade 10 California Standards Test, which will be based

on state standards in world history. All students in grade 11 will take the Stanford 9 social science test for grade 11 and the grade 11 California Standards Test, based on state standards in U.S. History.

### **STAR 2001 Science Tests at Grades 9 through 11**

California Standards Tests in science in grades 9 through 11 will be administered for the first time in spring 2001. All students will continue to take the Stanford 9 science test appropriate to grade level enrollment. Students enrolled in standards-based classes in Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics will also take the California Standards Test that corresponds to their course enrollment. California Standards tests in Coordinated Science will also be available. The standards selected for each of the Coordinated Science Tests will be available in early fall.

### **Fall Field Testing**

Many thanks to the districts that participated in the field testing of STAR items/tests in science, history/social science, language arts, mathematics, and/or writing prompts. Additional field testing in mathematics will take place in fall 2000. Districts are strongly encouraged to participate in the fall field test if asked. Districts wishing to volunteer to participate should contact the STAR service center immediately at 1 (888) STAR-882.

### **STAR 1999**

Some districts have not yet paid HEM for costs incurred under the 1999 Standard Agreement. Districts that have filed the *1999 STAR Apportionment Information Report* and have received the apportionment should pay HEM immediately. Districts that have not yet filed the *Apportionment Report* should contact the CDE to obtain another copy for filing as soon as possible. Similarly, districts that have been contacted about corrections needed for the *Apportionment Report* should provide the necessary corrections to CDE so that processing of the district's apportionment can go forward.

### **High School Exit Examination**

The American Institutes for Research (AIR), contractor for the High School Exit Examination (HSEE), conducted field testing of items for the new test in May at selected schools throughout the state. Additional field testing for the HSEE is anticipated for fall 2000. Materials to assist school districts with the implementation of the HSEE are available on the Internet at [www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/hsee/infopack.html](http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/hsee/infopack.html). Information includes a sample notification to parents and students as required in Education Code section 48980(e). The sample flyer includes the dates for the first administration of the HSEE: Wednesday, March 7, 2001 for Reading and Writing and Tuesday, March 13, 2001, Mathematics. Two dates in May have been identified to accommodate students on year-round school schedules. Additional information will be posted at this web site as it becomes available. Districts are reminded that in order to prepare students to pass the HSEE, schools must provide courses, curriculum, and instruction that are aligned to SBE-adopted content standards. Districts also must ensure that all students are enrolled in those courses and that students who do not make sufficient progress toward passing the exit

examination as defined in Education Code section 37252 are provided summer school and other opportunities to learn as needed.

The Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) is conducting the independent evaluation of the HSEE as required by Education Code section 60855. Schools and districts that receive requests for information, documents, data, interviews, or site visits from HumRRO should make every effort to cooperate.

### **Golden State Examinations**

The Golden State Examinations were administered during May 2000. Districts and schools with questions about the results of the spring GSE should contact the Sacramento County Office of Education at (916) 228-2662.

### **Assessments in Career Education (ACE) 2001**

The testing window designated for the spring 2001 administration is May 1-31, 2001. Tests will again be offered in the following areas: Agricultural Core, Computer Science and Information Services, Food Service and Hospitality, Health Care, Level I, and Technology Core. The ACE communications assistance packet and teacher guides for the spring 2001 administration will be available on the Internet at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/index.html> in September 2000.

A more detailed letter and contact identification form has been sent to each district/ROCP office, June 15, 2000. If you have not received this material, please call Monica Abeyta at Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), (916) 228-2662.

### **Advance Planning for 2000-01 Required Physical Fitness Testing and Reporting**

As districts are aware, Physical Fitness Test results will be collected and reported for 2000-01. For districts that wish to make early preparations for spring 2001 test administration and data collection, advance information was sent in early June to each county and district superintendent (attention to the directors of curriculum, directors of evaluation, and test coordinators). Copies of the memo can be obtained on the Standards and Assessment Division web site at [www.cde.ca.gov/statetests](http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests) or by contacting the division office at (916) 637-3011.

For questions or further information about standards and assessment, contact the Standards and Assessment Division: phone: (916) 657-3011; fax (916) 657-4964; e-mail: [star@cde.ca.gov](mailto:star@cde.ca.gov); or visit our web site at [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov) and click on Standards and Assessment. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.